

Do you want to participate in the ***Buzzfeed*** Project?

Purpose of the Project

You are invited to participate in a research project with the goal of:

- Mapping the occurrence of selected honeybee pathogens and parasites across different regions of Norway.
- The study is part of the BuzzFeed PhD project by Krzysztof Rutkowski, supervised by Professor Lucy Robertson, and conducted at the **Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)**.
- The study results will be published in scientific journals, as well as summarized in **NORBI magazine**.

Why Are You Being Invited to Participate?

You have been selected to participate because:

- We are reaching out to request **bee samples and hive debris (nedfall)** from your apiary.
- We ask you to complete a **questionnaire**, either using the form provided in this letter or via the online link sent by email.
- In total, we aim to analyze approximately **300 samples**, along with their corresponding questionnaires.

Who is Responsible for the Research Project?

The **Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)** is responsible for the processing of personal data in this project.

- Data will be processed within the **Parasitology Unit** of the **ParaFag Research Group** at the **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, NMBU**.

Project BuzzFeed collaboration partners include:

- **NORBI** - Norges Birøkterlag
- **MINA** - Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resource Management, NMBU
- Parasitology Group, Immunology Group, Virology Group, and Bacteriology Group – Veterinary Faculty, **NMBU**

Participation is voluntary

Your participation is completely voluntary, and there will be no negative consequences if you choose not to participate or if you later request to have your personal data deleted.

What does your participation entail?

- We will collect mailing addresses of randomly selected beekeepers who are NORBI members from the NORBI database to invite them to participate.
- If you express interest in participating, we will contact you **to obtain your consent** for processing your personal data and to provide further details.
- We will obtain the postal addresses of 300 selected beekeepers to send them a package for collecting bee and hive debris (deadfall) samples.
- You will be asked to complete a simple questionnaire, which includes providing your apiary coordinates and other relevant information.
- The personal data collected includes **name, contact details, apiary coordinates, and postal address**.
- **No sensitive personal data** will be collected.
- All personal data will be **electronically registered and securely stored**.

Brief information about data protection

We will only use data about you for the purposes described in this letter. We will process personal data confidentially and in accordance with data protection legislation. You can read more about privacy here: <https://www.datatilsynet.no>

Sincerely,

Prof. Lucy L. Robertson
(supervisor)

Krzysztof Rutkowski
(PhD Student)

Data protection - how we store and use your personal data

- Access to personal data will be limited to the project group, which includes Krzysztof Rutkowski (the principal investigator), Professor Lucy Robertson (the main supervisor), and the research team at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). Only authorized personnel involved in data analysis and processing will have access to the data.
- No external researchers at collaborating institutions will have direct access to personal data unless necessary and with appropriate consent.
- Personal data (e.g., names, contact information, and apiary coordinates) will be replaced with a unique code to anonymize the data. The key to the codes will be stored separately in a secure and encrypted location.
- All collected data will be stored on a research server at NMBU, which is locked and encrypted to prevent unauthorized access.
- We will use **Nettskjema**, managed by the **University of Oslo**, to:
 - Obtain digital consent from participants as part of the invitation email.
 - Collect data through the questionnaire.

What gives us the right to process data about you?

We process your information **based on your consent**.

On behalf of the NMBU, the Data Protection Services at the Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (Sikt) have assessed that the processing of personal data in this project meets requirements in data protection legislation.

What happens to your personal data when the project ends?

The project is expected to end 07.10.2027.

The collected data will then be anonymised, and all the personal data will be deleted.

Your rights

As long as you can be identified in the collected data, you have the right to request access to the data we are processing about you, to request that the data is corrected or deleted. If you contact us regarding your rights, you will hear from us within a month. We will provide an explanation if we cannot identify you or if your rights cannot be exercised. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Data Protection Authority about how we are processing your data.

If you have questions or want to exercise your rights, please contact:

- Krzysztof Rutkowski – PhD Student – krzysztof.rutkowski@nmbu.no
- Prof. Lucy Robertson – PhD Supervisor – lucy.robertson@nmbu.no
- Data Protection Officer: Hanne Pernille Gulbrandsen personvernombud@nmbu.no

If you have questions about how Data Protection Services have assessed the project, you can contact them by email: personverntjenester@sikt.no, or by phone: 73 98 40 40.